

# BACK TO THE FUTURE

## *THE BREWERY FLATS EXPERIENCE*



Mark Lere, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

# HISTORICAL BREWERY FLATS

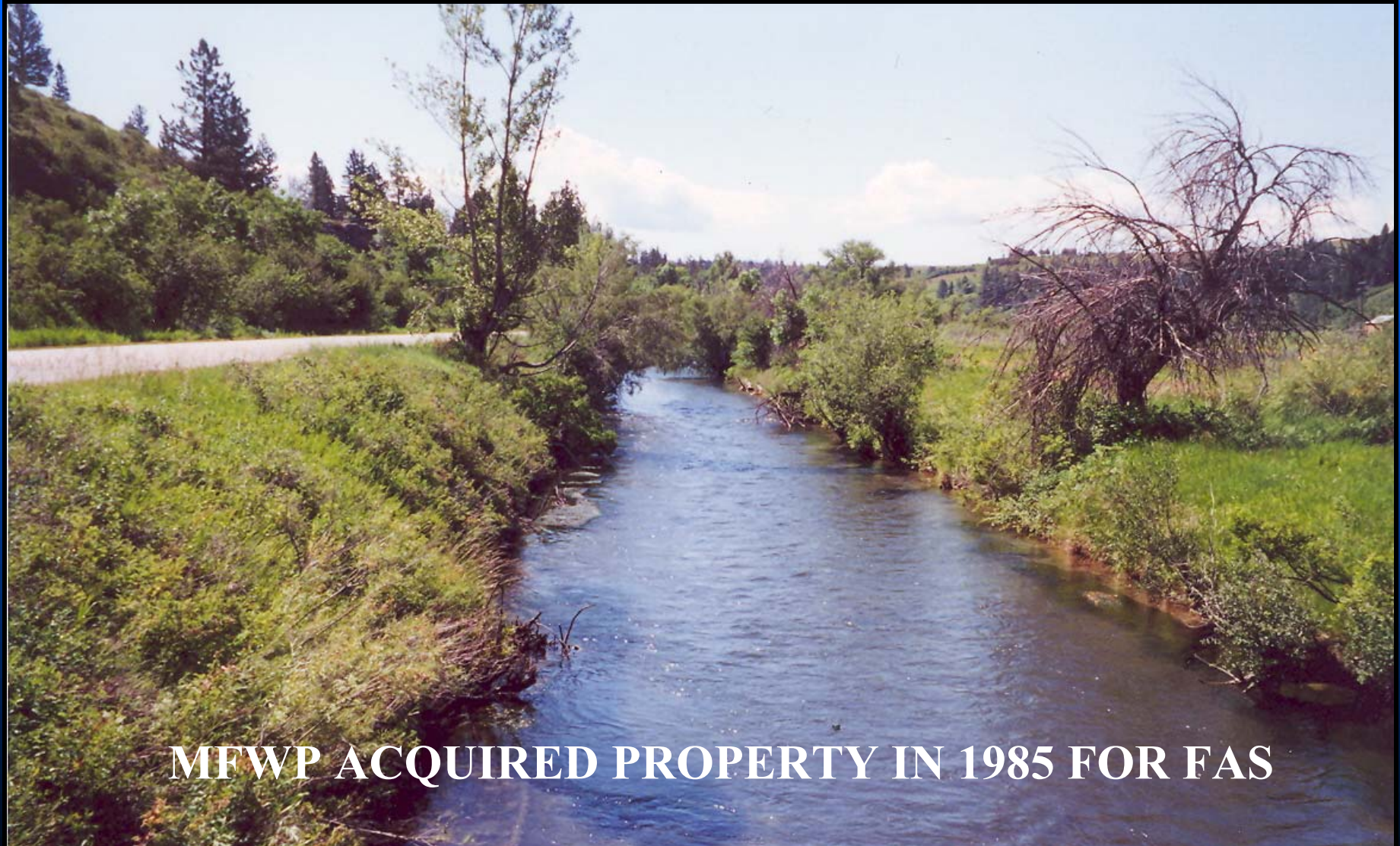
1907



Photo Courtesy of Fergus County Library



# **STRAIGHTENED AND ENTRENCHED CHANNEL OF BIG SPRING CREEK**



**MFWP ACQUIRED PROPERTY IN 1985 FOR FAS**



# PROJECT OBJECTIVES

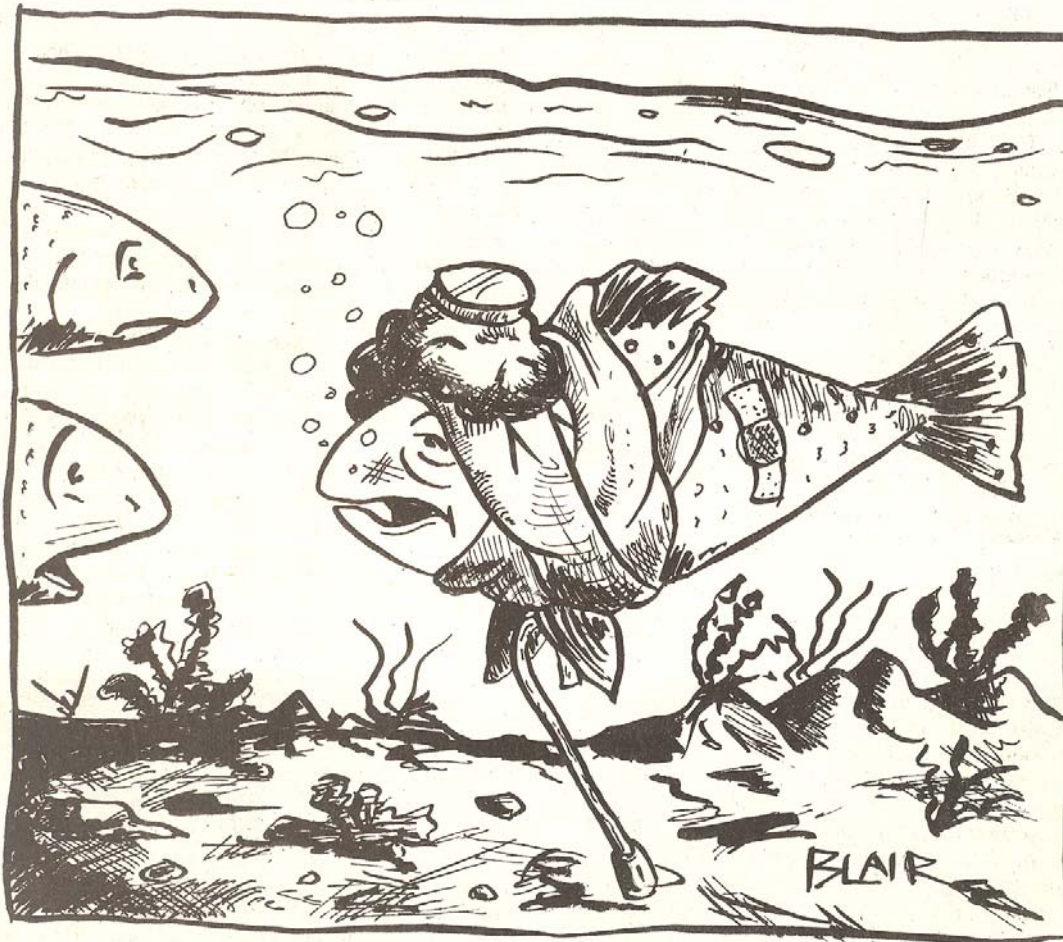
- Restore natural channel form and function
- Create and enhance wetland acreage
- Enhance resident fish populations
- Provide increased opportunities for public enjoyment of fish, wildlife and park resources





# HURDLES AND ROAD BLOCKS

Down at Brewery Flats . . .



"A little word to the wise . . .  
the creek ain't where it's supposed to be!!"

# PRE-PROJECT HURDLES

- Infrastructure constraints?
  - ✓ City waterlines
- Industrial site contamination?
  - ✓ Test pits to check for hazardous waste
- Channel stability/erosion threats?
  - ✓ Minimized with proper design
- Sources of funding?
  - ✓ Federal Sport Fish Restoration, Future Fisheries Improvement, Federal Highways, Fergus County in-kind
  - ✓ Total cost approximately \$400,000



# CONSTRUCTION ROADBLOCK #1

Construction began in 1998



**LOT'S O'MUD**



# BRING ON THE COBBLE !

Cobble added in 1999





# CONSTRUCTION ROADBLOCK #2

1999



LACK OF STREAMBANK VEGETATION



# BRING ON THE VEGETATION !

1999



2000





# BRING ON THE WATER !

Water turned in - 2000





# NEW CHANNEL CONSTRUCTION

## 1998





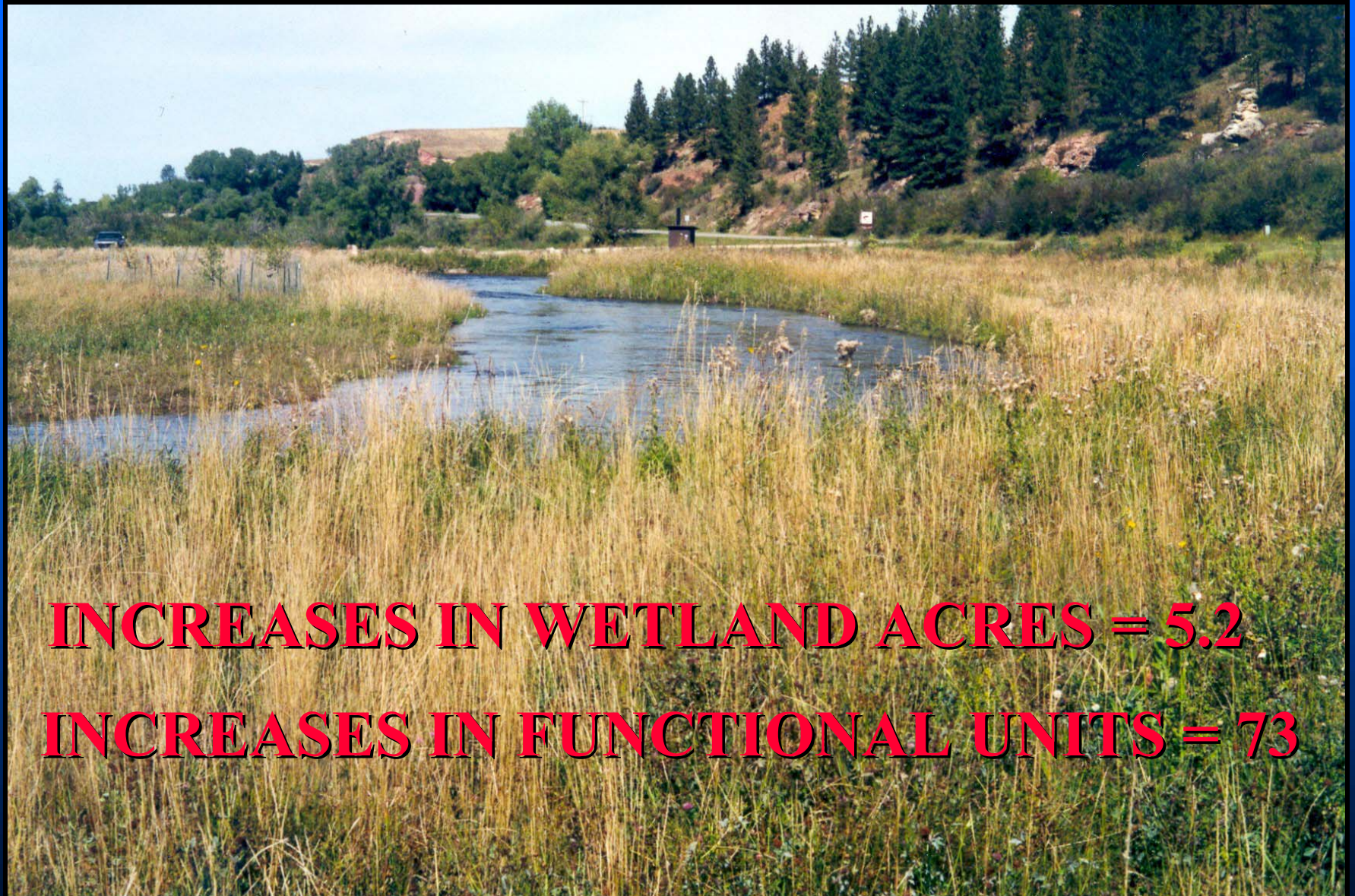
# COMPLETED CHANNEL

## 2003





# WETLAND RESPONSE

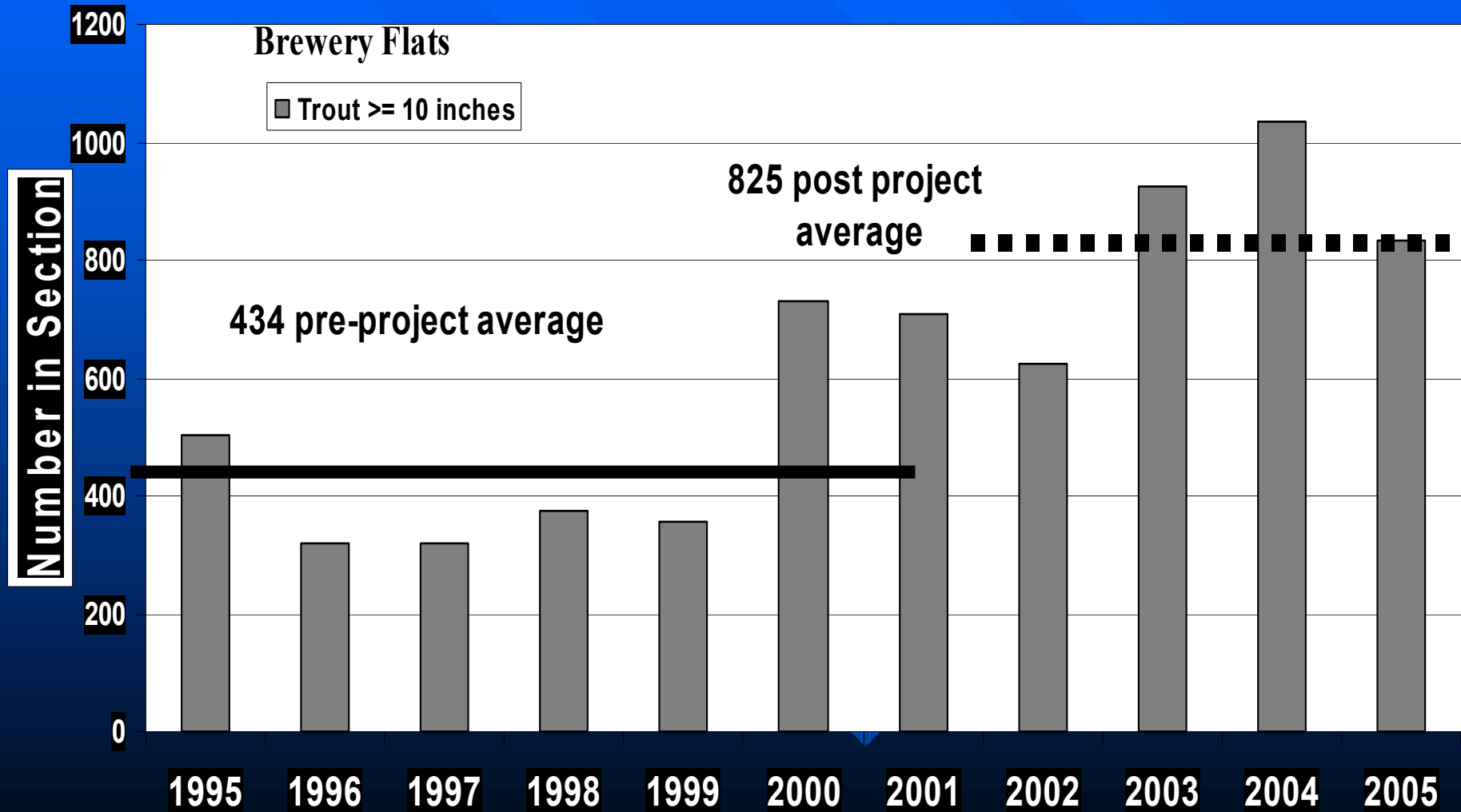


**INCREASES IN WETLAND ACRES = 5.2**

**INCREASES IN FUNCTIONAL UNITS = 73**



# FISHERIES RESPONSE





# INGREDIENTS FOR PROJECT SUCCESS

## ✓ PARTNERSHIPS

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program  
Montana Department of Transportation  
Big Spring Creek Watershed Partnership  
Inter-Fluve, Inc.  
Rowe Excavation  
Society of American Foresters  
Fergus County  
Fergus County Conservation District  
U.S. Natural Resource and Conservation Service  
City of Lewistown  
Lewistown Public School System  
Montana Conservation Corp  
Boy Scouts of America



# ✓ ENTHUSIASM





# ✓ PATIENCE/PERSEVERANCE

Twists and turns . . .

## Big Spring Creek may find its way in new directions



the leaks and Shaw believes that will dry that area up considerably. The new line is also close to the proposed new channel on the south end of the project. Shaw said he doesn't believe having the stream close to the water line will be a problem, "but having heavy equipment operate close to the pipe that worries me."

Rogers assured him that operators would know exactly where the line is.

"I can't imagine wanting to put my thumb in a leak if a new green spring" he quipped. Erik Brandt asked several questions including if the groundwater table will be affected by the project.

Bruce Rehwinkel of FWP in Helena, said they hired a firm to take pictures in the area and the chemical lab report said it was clean.

With the area designed for recreational opportunities, Lewistown said they had a firm to take pictures in the area and the chemical lab report said it was clean.

Using in-kind machine time with an option, since the right-of-way once the highway is built, will be about \$35,000, plus at other options. The cost does not include education and training for children. Rehwinkel said the project would take 60 days laying out.

1996

## Much interest shown by contractors for Brewery Flats stream restoration

by CARRIE MANTOOTH  
News-Argus Staff Writer

Interest by contractors in the Flats Stream Restoration "extremely high," according to Wildlife and Park Officer

Tews, FWP fisheries biologist has helped spearhead



1997

## Brewery Flats project is model for Montana

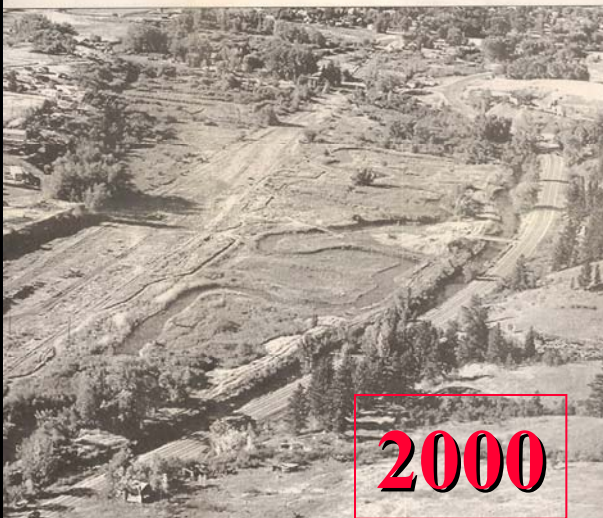
by GREGORY LITTLE  
News Editor

ago.

A fisheries manager and local resident Ted Hawn looked at the site and felt restoring the natural meander of the stream would

The Brewery Flats stream restoration is a

## Mission Accomplished



2000

## Brewery Flats project clears another hurdle toward reality

by CARRIE MANTOOTH  
News-Argus Staff Writer

The Brewery Flats Stream Restoration Committee cleared another hurdle in the race for mid-summer construction with the closure of bids Dec. 30 for the stream project.

Ted Hawn of the Natural

restore it to a more natural meandering pattern on Upper Spring Creek in the Brewery Flats area owned by the U.S. Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

That portion of stream was straightened by the railroad in the early 1900s.

Once the bid is awarded, Hawn said a more detailed plan will be due

Willow and sod mats will be harvested on-site to re-vegetate the area.

The stream restoration project has been in the works for a year and a half. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCIS and the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation District doing most of the organizational work.

Cost of the project is projected

1998

"We  
hoping to g  
this proje  
movin  
forward

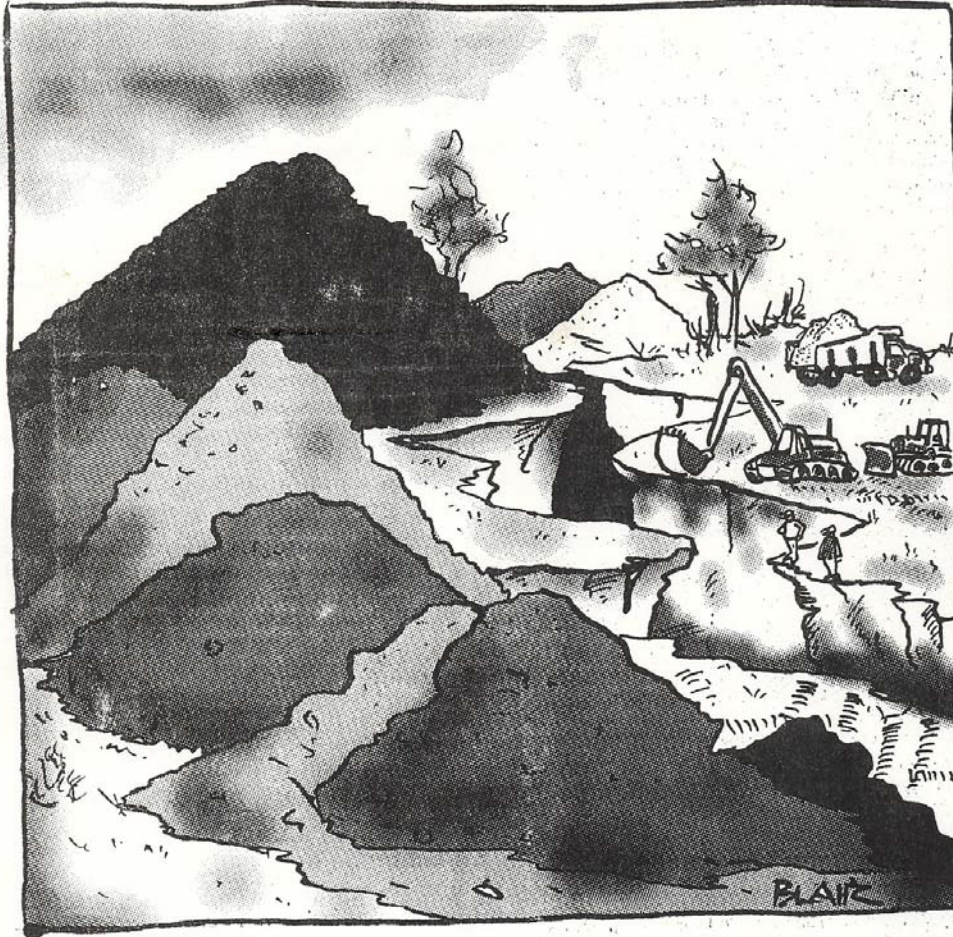
## Brewery Flats FWP determined to get stream work done this summer

1999



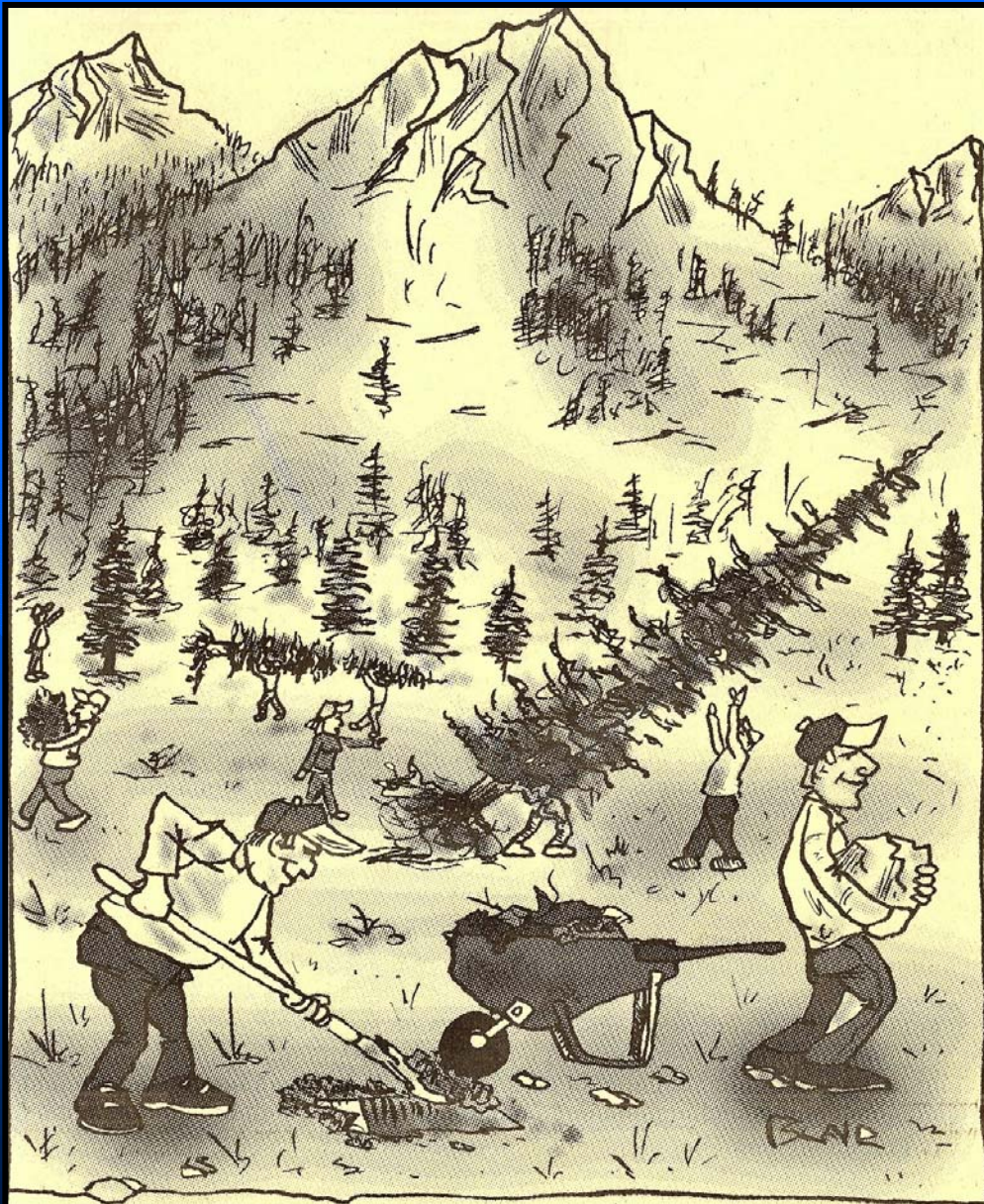
# ✓ HUMOR

Brewery Flats . . . Goes flat!!!



"Well, I'll be darned ...  
I was just sure we'd find gravel down here.  
Maybe if we dig just a hair deeper!!"





With the Spring Creek relocation complete the next project has begun – move the Snowy Mountains 25 feet to the left!